

the public, subject to the provision that the conduct of any person present shall not be allowed to interfere with the proper and orderly functioning of the Board. Sessions will not be open to the public when evidence of a classified nature or affecting national security is to be received.

§ 4.09-20 Record of proceedings.

The testimony of witnesses shall be transcribed and a complete record of the proceedings of a Marine Board of Investigation shall be kept. At the conclusion of the investigation a written report shall be made containing findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations to the Commandant for his consideration.

§ 4.09-25 U.S. Attorney to be notified.

The recorder of a Marine Board of Investigation shall notify the United States Attorney for the District in which the Marine Board of Investigation is being conducted of the nature of the casualty under investigation and time and place the investigation will be made.

§ 4.09-30 Action on report.

Upon approval of the report of a Marine Board of Investigation the Commandant will require to be placed into effect such recommendations as he may deem necessary for the better improvement and safety of life and property at sea.

§ 4.09-35 Preferment of charges.

(a) If in the course of an investigation by a Marine Board there appears probable cause for the preferment of charges against any licensed or certificated personnel, the Marine Board shall, either during or immediately following the investigation and before the witnesses have dispersed, apprise the District Commander of such evidence for possible action in accordance with part 5 of this subchapter, without waiting for the approval of the report by the Commandant. Such action or proceedings shall be independent and apart from any other action which may be later ordered by the Commandant or taken by other authorities.

Subpart 4.11—Witnesses and Witness Fees

§ 4.11-1 Employees of vessels controlled by Army or Navy as witnesses.

No officer, seaman, or other employee of any public vessel controlled by the Army or Navy (not including the Coast Guard) of the United States, shall be summoned or otherwise required to appear as a witness in connection with any investigation or other proceeding without the consent of the Government agency concerned.

§ 4.11-5 Coercion of witnesses.

Any attempt to coerce any witness or to induce him to testify falsely in connection with a shipping casualty, or to induce any witness to leave the jurisdiction of the United States, is punishable by a fine of \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

§ 4.11-10 Witness fees and allowances.

Witness fees and allowances are paid in accordance with 46 CFR 5.401.

[CGD 79-080, 45 FR 2046, Jan. 10, 1980, as amended by CGD 96-041, 61 FR 50726, Sept. 27, 1996]

Subpart 4.12—Testimony by Interrogatories and Depositions

§ 4.12-1 Application, procedure, and admissibility.

(a) Witnesses shall be examined orally, except that for good cause shown, testimony may be taken by deposition upon application of any party in interest or upon the initiative of the investigating officer or Marine Board of Investigation.

(b) Applications to take depositions shall be in writing setting forth the reasons why such deposition should be taken, the name and address of the witness, the matters concerning which it is expected the witness will testify, and the time and place proposed for the taking of the deposition. Such application shall be made to an investigating officer or the Marine Board of Investigation prior to or during the course of the proceedings.

(c) The investigating officer or Marine Board of Investigation, shall, upon receipt of the application, if good cause is shown, make and serve upon the parties an order which will specify the name of the witness whose deposition is to be taken, the name and place of the taking of such deposition and shall contain a designation of the officer before whom the witness is to testify. Such deposition may be taken before any officer authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States.

(d) The party desiring the deposition may submit a list of interrogatories to be propounded to the absent witness; then the opposite party after he has been allowed a reasonable time for this purpose, may submit a list of cross-interrogatories. If either party objects to any question of the adversary party, the matter shall be presented to the investigating officer or Marine Board of Investigation for a ruling. Upon agreement of the parties on a list of interrogatories and cross-interrogatories (if any) the investigating officer or Marine Board of Investigation may propound such additional questions as may be necessary to clarify the testimony given by the witness.

(e) The subpoena referred to in subpart F of this subchapter together with the list of interrogatories and cross-interrogatories (if any) shall be forwarded to the officer designated to take such deposition. This officer will cause the subpoena to be served personally on the witness. After service the subpoena shall be endorsed and returned to the investigating officer or Marine Board of Investigation.

(f) When the deposition has been duly executed it shall be returned to the investigating officer or Marine Board of Investigation. As soon as practicable after the receipt of the deposition the investigating officer or Marine Board of Investigation shall present it to the parties for their examination. The investigating officer or Marine Board of Investigation shall rule on the admissibility of the deposition or any part thereof and of any objection offered by either party thereto.

[CGD 74-119, 39 FR 33317, Sept. 17, 1974, as amended by CGD 96-041, 61 FR 50726, Sept. 27, 1996]

Subpart 4.13—Availability of Records

§ 4.13-1 Public availability of records.

Coast Guard records are made available to the public in accordance with 49 CFR part 7.

[CGD 73-43R, 40 FR 13501, Mar. 27, 1975]

Subpart 4.19—Construction of Regulations and Rules of Evidence

§ 4.19-1 Construction of regulations.

The regulations in this part shall be liberally construed to insure just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of the issues presented.

§ 4.19-5 Adherence to rules of evidence.

As hearings under this part are administrative in character, strict adherence to the formal rules of evidence is not imperative. However, in the interest of orderly presentation of the facts of a case, the rules of evidence should be observed as closely as possible.

Subpart 4.21—Computation of Time

§ 4.21-1 Computation of time.

The time, within which any act, provided by the regulation in this subchapter, or an order of the Marine Board of Investigation is to be done, shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last unless the last day is Sunday or a legal holiday, in which case the time shall extend to and include the next succeeding day that is not a Sunday or legal holiday: *Provided, however,* That where the time fixed by the regulations in this subchapter or an order of the Board is five days or less all intervening Sundays or legal holidays, other than Saturdays, shall be excluded.

Subpart 4.23—Evidence of Criminal Liability

§ 4.23-1 Evidence of criminal liability.

If as a result of any investigation or other proceeding conducted hereunder, evidence of criminal liability on the